

² March 26, 2008. NENA regrets the tardiness of this response, but believes the issue Commnet raises is too important to remain unanswered.

today in compliance with the requirements of Section 20.18 of the Rules. An area can be remote yet still sufficiently traversed by cell phone users to make the provision of the service economical.

Second, the FCC's practice of granting waivers sparingly (as the law of waiver indeed requires) and limiting these to short durations subject to frequent review has proven successful, on the whole, with regard to so-called Tier III rural carriers.³

Third, the Commission is presently engaged in further refinement of the wireless accuracy rules, and has called for particular comment on the standards for rural areas and for roaming.⁴ When the so-called Part B issues are resolved, the FCC is expected to give due consideration to whether the difficulties of locating callers in rural areas should be reflected in the new regulations. If the Commission were to grant Commnet's waiver request, then perhaps a periodic review of efforts toward the chosen E9-1-1 compliance deadline would be in order.

Until then, we urge the Commission to continue its current practice of short-term relief for wireless carriers in rural areas who meet the demanding standards for waiver of Section 20.18 of the Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

³ Order, WT Docket 02-377, FCC 03-297, released November 19, 2003 (refusing forbearance from enhanced 9-1-1 obligations to a group of rural carriers); Order to Stay, CC Docket 94-102, FCC 03-241, released October 10, 2003, ¶2, refusing permanent relief from E9-1-1 deadlines in these words: "We believe that all American consumers, including those who live, work, vacation in, or travel through the least populated areas of the United States, should have comparable E911 wireless service."

⁴ Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 07-108, released June 1, 2007, ¶¶14, 17.

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Certificate of Service

The foregoing ex parte Comments of NENA have been served today by e-mail attachment upon: David J. Kaufman, 1615 L Street N.W., Suite 1325, Washington D.C. 20036

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